

Nixons Lead Parade at Disneyland Dedication

Vice-President and Other Celebrities
Help Open Six New Attractions at Park

BY CHARLES HILLINGER

Vice-President Nixon, his wife and their two delighted daughters spent a fun-filled exciting day yesterday. They streaked down a towering snow-capped mountain in a hobsled, sailed beneath the sea in an atomic submarine and sped through the air as passengers in a sleek monorail.

The Vice-President and his family led a 150-unit hour-long parade along with Mr. and Mrs. Walt Disney, musician Meredith Willson, Art Linkletter and a host of other celebrities.

The occasion?

A fond desire by a couple

of cute blondes—the Nixon girls, Tricia, 13, and Julie, 10—to visit Disney's land of enchantment.

(Their only previous visit to Disneyland was shortly after it opened four years ago.)

New Facilities

And the official opening with the help of the Nixons of \$6 million worth of six new spectaculars at Disneyland.

The day began for the Vice-President when he and his mother, Mrs. Hannah Nixon, attended the East Whittier Friends Church morning services.

Charles S. Ball, minister, conducted the worship.

Tricia and Julie accompanied by their equally excited mother had a fascinating morning, dashing from one ride to another.

At noon Mr. and Mrs. Disney hosted the Vice-Presi-

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NIXONS HAVE GALA DAY IN DISNEYLAND

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dent and his wife at a luncheon in Disney's apartment above the Disneyland firehouse.

The Vice-President and his family opened the parade as they bounced along Main St. in a 1908 Oldsmobile.

Following closely were many of the favorite Disney characters — Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto, Davy Crockett, Zorro and all the rest.

International Floats

There were international floats from Japan, Austria, Mexico, China, Greece, Spain, Italy, Switzerland...

Bands, marching units, floats from Adventureland, Fantasyland, Frontierland, Tomorrowland.

The climax of the parade came when 10,000 balloons of all colors were sent spiraling into the air as a band of 76 trombone players, dressed in tuxedos and top hats marched past the reviewing stand.

Willson directed the band as it played that rousing song from "The Music Man," "76 Trombones."

Calls It 'Great Show'

"I have never seen a parade like this before. Some parades are great parades. This one was a great show," the Vice-President declared.

The parade ended as the thousands of spectators and participants gathered beneath Orange County's tallest structure — a 14-story high, snow-capped, exact scale replica of the famous

Matterhorn of the Swiss Alps.

Sixty bobsleds, each carrying four passengers, raced down the Matterhorn—dipping, climbing, banking and passing behind cascading waterfalls.

The Matterhorn, one of the six new major features, towers twice the height of Sleeping Beauty's castle.

38-Passenger Subs

From the Matterhorn the crowd walked to nearby Tomorrowland where Chief Machinist Mate N. M. Nelson of the USS Nautilus and his wife, and Rear Adm. Charles C. Kirkpatrick, chief of information, U.S. Navy, dedicated eight "atomic" submarines, each with individual portholes for 38 passengers.

The Vice-President and his family became the first official sub sailors as they submerged beneath the clear lagoon to the legendary lost continent of Atlantis — past the graveyard of sunken ships and on beneath the polar icecap.

Impressions of Monorail

And then they moved on to Disney's fabulous mile-long monorail system — the first monorail to operate in the United States on a daily basis, and perhaps a prototype of rapid transit systems of tomorrow all over the world.

As the Vice-President completed his trip on the inaugural run on the monorail, he told newsmen:

"Monorail not only pro-

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vides wonderful entertainment for Disneyland visitors, but it offers an opportunity for people from all over the United States to see this type of transportation.

"From what I have seen here this afternoon, monorail could well be used in Los Angeles."

The three-car trains travel over a concrete beam supported by pylons rising to heights of up to 34 ft.

It is capable of speeds in excess of 80 m.p.h., negotiates sharp curves, crisscrosses itself with overpasses and climbs grades up to 7%.

Tricia and Julie snipped the ribbon with gold scissors. Their mother and father climbed into the nose of the lead red, white and blue

ultramodern coach with the two girls. And off they sped.

Disneyland has two monorail trains, each capable of carrying 82 passengers. The Disneyland-Alweg monorail is a joint development of Disneyland and the Alweg Corp. of Cologne, Germany.

The \$1.3 million monorail system has been under development for the last six years.

Family Reunion

Late yesterday the Nixons held a family reunion at Knott's Berry Farm, but before dinner the Vice-President slowly made his way through a packed Sunday crowd, shaking outstretched hands and exchanging greetings.

Walter Knott, owner of

the famous tourist center, escorted the Nixon family and relatives, about 20 in all, to a reserved room in the restaurant.

Besides Nixon's mother, the party included the Vice-President's brother, F. Donald Nixon; his wife Clara Jane and their three children, Lawrence, 16, Donnie, 13, and Ricky, 6; Mrs. Donald Nixon's mother, Mrs. Mae Lenke; Bill Ryan, brother of Pat Nixon, and Mrs. Ryan; Mrs. Thomas Ryan, sister-in-law of Pat Nixon, and Pat Nixon's sister, Mrs. Neva Renter.

The Vice-President will visit his Yorba Linda birthplace this morning and later drive to San Diego, where he will receive an honorary degree at the University of San Diego. He leaves tonight for the nation's capital.